

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
March 5, 2019
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Wendy Duren called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Patrick Regan, Scott Hemink, Tom Erdmann, Lindsey Carr, Wendy Duren, Tony Jewett, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Tracy Whitney

February 12, 2019, 2018 Minutes

The Committee approved the February 12, 2019 Park Committee minutes on a motion by Patrick Regan, seconded by Tom Erdmann. Motion carried 5-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

Park Reports

Tom Erdmann asked if the rinks were cleared over the weekend.

Dana Young stated that they were not. He stated that the public works crew focused on clearing streets if there was a weekend snowfall and trails and rinks were cleared the next business day. He stated that the crew has to work overtime over the weekend when plowing snow. The overtime costs and the burden on the crew from having to work extended hours over the weekend have lead to the decision to have the crew focus on clearing just the streets over the weekend.

Tony Jewett noted that the rinks would also not be cleared on a holiday such as New Year's Day, President's Day or Martin Luther King Day.

Further discussion was held on whether this was a significant issue for Deephaven residents. Dana Young stated that he has not received any complaints on the fact that the rinks have not been cleared over the weekend.

Wendy Duren stated that perhaps the clearing of rinks could be the responsibility of rink attendants if it is decided to hire attendants next season. She further suggested that notice of this policy could be communicated to residents in the October Newsletter.

Review Concept Designs for Proposed Bikeway on Minnetonka Blvd

The Committee reviewed the concept designs provided by Toole Design on a bikeway on Minnetonka Blvd. General discussion was held on appropriate drive lane widths, the impact of the proposed bike lanes on the right-of-way and on abutting properties, and whether the addition of bike lanes would impact private property.

Patrick Regan suggested reducing the speed limit on Minnetonka Blvd to 30 mph.

Scott Hemink added that the City could encourage awareness of the speed limit such as with flashing speed limit signs.

Wendy Duren noted that the inclusion of a pedestrian walkway may justify lowering the speed limit to 30 mph.

Patrick Regan stated that adding stop signs along Minnetonka Blvd would significantly change the nature of the road.

Scott Hemink encouraged staff to ask Bolton & Menk and Toole Design to consider speed limit reductions and other traffic calming options.

Discussion was held regarding pedestrian crosswalks currently located on Minnetonka Blvd.

Tony Jewett stated that requests for pedestrian crosswalks typically go to the Public Safety Committee for their review. The Committee consists of the Mayor, the Police Chief, staff and members of public works. He stated that Police Chief Johnson has not favored additional crosswalks due to concerns that they provide a false sense of security for pedestrians. He stated that the Committee attempts to pick the safest possible locations, with the best sightlines, for crosswalks.

Scott Hemink stated that, in all deference to the Police Chief, he thought crosswalks should be evaluated more thoroughly by traffic engineers.

Review Thorpe Pavilion Rental Agreement

The Committee reviewed the proposed Thorpe Pavilion Rental Agreement and suggested a few changes to the agreement.

Discuss Shuck Park Improvements

Dana Young stated that he will be meeting with the city engineer on the reconstruction of the Shuck Park tennis court tomorrow. He stated that he will be asking the engineer to design the reconstruction of the two courts to include one court for tennis and the other court for two pickle ball courts and a one-half basketball court.

The Committee reviewed several playground features and pricing provided by St. Croix Recreation. The Committee recommended that staff focus on finding up to two slides and/or climbing structures for 2-5 year olds and one piece of playground equipment for 6-12 year olds.

Discuss Committee Vacancy

The Committee reviewed the membership applications from ten residents. Motion by Wendy Duren to recommend that the Park Committee Chair and Vice-Chair interview Kaisha Rafferty and Cory Lepper and issue their recommendation on a final candidate to the Park Committee. Seconded by Patrick Regan. Motion carried 5-0.

It was noted that there was one current vacancy on the Committee and Patrick Regan stated that work circumstances could require him to resign sooner than expected.

Other

There was no other business this evening.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on April 2, 2019.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Patrick Regan, seconded by Scott Hemink. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.